

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Docket No. R97-1

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS PLUNKETT TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN
REDIRECTED FROM THE POSTAL SERVICE
(DBP/USPS-28(A-B) AND 33(F-L))

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses of witness Plunkett to the following interrogatories of David B. Popkin: DBP/USPS-28(a-b) and 33(f-l), filed on September 10, 1997, and redirected from the Postal Service. These responses were compelled by Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R97-1/53, issued October 30, 1997.

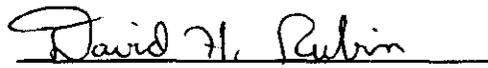
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking


David H. Rubin

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November 10, 1997

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INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN REDIRECTED FROM
THE POSTAL SERVICE

DBP/USPS-28 [a] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that Section 822.111 of the Postal Operations Manual [POM] requires that the delivering carrier or window clerk will obtain the signature or authorized signature stamp of the recipient of an article utilizing the Return Receipt Service. [b] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that POM Section 822.111 also requires the delivery employee must complete the date of delivery if the addressee has not already done so.

DBP/USPS-28 Response:

- a. *Confirmed.*
- b. *Confirmed.*

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DBP/USPS-33 [f] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that the Postal Service used to apply the red validating stamp to return receipts and that this procedure was terminated. [g] When and why was the use of this procedure terminated and provide copies of the directive doing so? [h] Wouldn't the date on the red validating stamp be more likely to be correct than a date that was handwritten? [i] Wouldn't the presence of the red validating stamp on the return receipt provide a greater level of authenticity of the return receipt than one without it? [j] Explain any negative responses to subparts h and i particularly in light of the desire to provide a quality product. [k] Confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that the application of a red validation stamp impression on a return receipt by other than an authorized Postal Service employee would be a violation of the law. [l] Are there any plans to resume the use of the red validating stamp?

DBP/USPS-33 Response:

f. Confirmed.

g-j. The use of the red validating stamp was terminated in 1985. See attached Postal Bulletin 21519 dated June 20, 1985, and LR-SSR-137, pages 4-7 (responses of witness Larson to Docket No. R87-1 and R90-1 interrogatories from David B. Popkin).

k. Not confirmed, unless one is forging or counterfeiting a postmarking stamp, or impression thereof, with the intent to make it appear that such an impression is a *genuine postmark*.

l. No.

ARGENTINA '85 Souvenir Card**Do Not Sell Before July 5, 1985**

A souvenir card is being issued to honor ARGENTINA '85, the international philatelic exhibition being held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 5-14, 1985. The card features reproductions of the 1-peso plus 1-peso floral semipostal stamp issued by Argentina in 1961 and the 1978 United States 15-Cent rose stamp. The card also bears a message signed by the Postmaster General.

Collectors. Customers may purchase the uncanceled version of this card for \$2.00 at authorized philatelic centers or by mail order from the Philatelic Sales Division in both the canceled and uncanceled versions. The canceled cards are \$2.22 each. A 22-Cent flag stamp will be affixed to the card and canceled with the circular U.S. cancellation to be used at ARGENTINA '85. Orders should be addressed to ARGENTINA '85 Souvenir Card, Philatelic Sales Division, Washington, DC 20265-9997.

Supply. An automatic distribution will be made to post offices with authorized philatelic centers. Post Offices with philatelic centers requiring additional stock of this card, *item 503*, are to order from their regional accountable paper depository on a Form 17A, *Accountable Items Requisition from Stamp Distribution Office*.

—Customer Services Dept., 6-20-85.

✓ Improper Completion of Return Receipts

In July 1983, the format of Form 3811, *Domestic Return Receipt*, was changed and instructions for the proper completion of the new edition were printed in POSTAL BULLETIN 21479 (10-4-84) and are now incorporated in DOMESTIC MAIL MANUAL (DMM) 932. Many carriers and clerks are not following these procedures and immediate corrective action must be taken to ensure proper completion of all return receipts.

As shown on the return receipt, the 70¢ return receipt fee covers basic return receipt service which shows the name of the addressee or agent who signed the return receipt and the date of delivery. *No block should be checked for this service.* Blocks 1 or 2 should be checked *only* if the mailer wishes and pays for service showing to whom, date, and address of delivery or restricted delivery service. In addition, return receipts no longer are to be postmarked. Customers are paying to know the date of delivery and carriers and clerks must complete item 7, showing the date of delivery, if the customer does not. *Under no circumstances should a clerk or carrier:*

1. Complete boxes 1 and 2 if the service was not paid for.
2. Postmark or rounddate return receipts before returning them to customers.

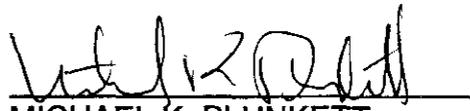
—Rates & Classification Dept., 6-20-85



An
accident
happened
here

DECLARATION

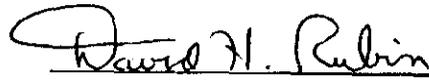
I, Michael K. Plunkett, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.


MICHAEL K. PLUNKETT

Dated: 11/10/97

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.



David H. Rubin

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